

## Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms, Part 5 - Acts 27:21-30 – August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010

- This is part five of a series I've titled; "Secrets to Surviving Life's Storms."
- We know from the text, "that" Paul survived this storm, but, I believe the Holy Spirit wants us to know "how" Paul survived this storm.
- So far we found nine of these secrets, or reasons, if you prefer, for Paul's survival, and we'll now pick it up in verse 21 with our 10<sup>th</sup> one.

### 10. Brokenness (Verse 21)

21 After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss.

- v21 Luke tells us that they had gone a very long time without food when Paul stands up and tells them in a sanctified way; "I told you so,"
- He tells them that if they would have taken his advice and not set out from Crete they would have been spared of this damage and loss.
- Not only are they broke financially, they're broken emotionally, physically, mentally, and that's the best thing that could've happened.
- The reason I say that is because God has brought them to the end of themselves. As you might imagine, He has got their attention.
- As we'll see in the next verses, Paul is going to seize the moment now that the Lord has their attention, and we'll see how they respond.

"...the first thing we must learn is that our wills must be broken to His will. ... It is painful, humiliating, but it is the only way. It is being 'Not I, but Christ' (Galatians 2:20), and a 'C' is a bent 'I'. The Lord Jesus cannot live in us fully and reveal Himself through until the proud self within us is broken. ... Being broken is both God's work and ours. He brings His pressure to bear, but we have to make the choice. For this reason, we are not likely to be broken except at the Cross of Jesus. The willingness of Jesus to be broken for us is the all-compelling motive in our being broken too. ... In a pathetic passage in a prophetic Psalm, He says, 'I am a worm and no man' (Psalm 22:6). Those who have been in tropical lands tell us that there is a big difference between a snake and a worm, when you attempt to strike at them. The snake rears itself up and hisses and tries to strike back - a true picture of self. But a worm offers no resistance, it allows you to do what you like with it, kick it or squash it under your heel - a picture of true brokenness. And Jesus was willing to become just that for us - a worm and no man."

*Lord, bend that proud and stiff necked I,  
Help me to bow the head and die;  
Beholding Him on Calvary,  
Who bowed His head for me.*

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### 11. Courage (Verses 22-26)

22 But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. 23 Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

- v22-23 Paul urges them to keep up their courage because God told him not to fear because no life will be lost, only their ship will be lost.
- v24 He tells them how the Lord had promised him that he would stand trial before Caesar in Rome and in His grace they will as well.
- v25-26 Paul again encourages them because he believes God will do just as he said, but, they'll still be shipwrecked on some island.
- If we as believers ever hope to survive the storms of life, we have to put our confidence in the Lord and - get our courage from the Lord.

**Joshua 1:6-7, 9** - 6 "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. ... 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." NIV

### 12. Commitment (Verses 27-30)

27 On the fourteenth night we were still being driven across the Adriatic Sea, when about midnight the sailors sensed they were approaching land. 28 They took soundings and found that the water was a hundred and twenty feet deep. A short time later they took soundings again and found it was ninety feet deep. 29 Fearing that we would be dashed against the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern and prayed for daylight. 30 In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow.

- v27-28 After two weeks at the mercy of this storm, finally at midnight on the 14<sup>th</sup> day, they find that the water is getting shallow.
- v29 Because they feared they would be killed when they hit the rocks, they prepare the lifeboat and, interesting, "prayed for daylight."
- v30 Here, Luke tells us the reason they do this is because they want to escape so they pretend to lower some anchors from the bow.
- What's interesting is that their very survival was dependant on - their commitment to - stay together and not try to save themselves.

"The sailors, under pretence of casting out anchors from the bow, lowered the boat to make their escape, leaving the vessel and all the passengers to certain destruction'...

Charles Spurgeon

- If the truth be known, we're all prone to want to jump ship and bail out of a rough and tough situation in those storms of life.
- I suppose we can learn from this that if we try, it could be to our own peril, and that we need to be committed to - and stay in the boat.
- It's striking to me how these men planned their out by having the lifeboat lowered down and ready. That's how it starts, we plan our out.